

What is claimed is:

[0022] ^{Sub a1} 1. A holster for a tool of the type comprising a body portion and a handle portion which projects from the body portion in a direction generally perpendicular to the central axis of the body portion characterized in that the holster comprises a tubular body portion having open top and bottom ends sized to receive the body portion of a tool, the tubular body portion having an elongate cutaway section extending along at least 50% of the length of the tubular body portion from the top edge and sized to receive the handle of the tool, and means for attachment of the holster to a user which means allows the holster to maintain a vertical or substantially vertical alignment when attached to the user.

[0023] 2. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the tubular body portion is rigid or substantially rigid.

[0024] 3. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 75%, preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90% of the length of the tubular body portion.

[0025] ^{Sub a2} 4. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section is flared outwardly at its upper edge.

[0026] 5. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section is provided with a notch on its lower edge.

[0027] ^{Sub a3} 6. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the attachment means comprises a flexible loop.

[0028] 7. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the attachment means is fixed to the tubular body portion through a pivot.

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